



# The Cross Roads Times

## The Town of Cross Roads, Texas

Volume 8 Issue 2

April, 2009

940-365-9693

### Special Interest Articles:

- Thank you!
- Square Foot Gardening

### Individual Highlights:

Mayor's Desk	1
Park Board	3
Business Profile	4
Appreciation	5
Gardening	6
Katherine	7
Library	8
Crime Watch	9
AISSD Event	9
DISD Event	10
CR Clean-Up	11

## From the Mayor's Desk by Harv Kitchens, Mayor



### THANK YOU !

We have two Town Council Members who have chosen not to run for re-election to our Town Council. We owe them a heartfelt "Thank you" for their years of service.

To **Michelle Meek** we offer our thanks for her willingness to serve the Town of Cross Roads as a Town Council member for 6 years, 2003–2009. She has brought to the Town Council an intuitive mind, a responsible attitude and a willing hand when it was sorely needed. Michelle dedicated herself to being prepared and present at the

Council meetings. She has arranged her work schedule, her play and her home activities so that she could be present at the Council meetings. She has missed only one Council meeting in the 6 years she has served, thus showing her dedication to the mission of our Town.

One of Michelle's major contributions was being the liaison Council Member to the Architecture Review Committee. She diligently helped analyze all aspects of our "Old Texas Country" ordinance. She then assisted the developers in complying with the ordinance to ensure that the Town's image was maintained. She also worked tirelessly on the revision of our Sign Ordinance to make it fair to the businesses as well as maintaining the beauty of our Town.

Thanks, also, to Michelle's husband, Dave, for his support and involvement in our Town. Michelle, we will continue to look to you for additional contributions to Cross Roads.

*Continued on page 2*

## From the Mayor's Desk *(continued)*

To **Dan Prins** we offer our Thanks for his willingness to serve the Town of Cross Roads as a Town Council Member for 6 years, 2003-2009. Dan joined the Town Council in May 2003, at a time when good judgment and consistency were needed to create and maintain the mission of our Town. Dan has been able to carry a full work load, manage a 20 acre horse farm, and give of his time to the Town for these past 6 years. He has arranged his schedule to attend our council meetings even if it meant driving from his work in Oklahoma City.

Dan has been the Council member liaison to our very active Road Committee. During his time of service on this committee, road repair and replacement have been the largest expenditures each budget year. We have resurfaced Fish Trap, Moseley, New Hope, Keyes, Historic, Tipps and Potter Shop. These are all the main roads in our Town. Road improvement was one of Dan's campaign promises when he ran for Town Council and he has met his promise.

Dan brought to the Town Council a real "down to Earth" approach in decision making that helped us stay on course.

We also want to thank his wife, Barb, for her involvement and attendance at Council Meetings, and her support of the Town Council.

Dan, we are not going to let you retire completely --- only on a furlough. We will continue to need you, your tractor and your willingness to do the hard work.



Thank you, Dan Prins



Thank you, Michelle Meek

## Park Board Announcement . . .by Becky Porter, Board Chair

Our jewel of a park now has an official name. It is the ***Cross Roads Town Park***.

Over the past several months the Park Board has determined an official name for our park. We can be proud for generations to come that there is now a Cross Roads Town Park. The Board has also established a set of rules/guidelines to ensure a safe and fun experience for all who visit the park. We are not stopping there. Plans are now underway to create several additional picnic sites underneath those shady trees, and will be posting an official sign on FM 424 so that you won't miss it! Hopefully, in the near future, a designated parking lot will be constructed as well as road improvements. You have heard me talk before about those huge old oaks and the gentle breeze that adds a priceless feel to the country life. Please feel free to stop by at the corner of FM 424 and Fish Trap Road and enjoy what is offered to you. Cross Roads Town Park is a perfect place to meet friends, to have a bite of lunch, or just to relax.



**Come enjoy a picnic  
in the park**

### **Special Notice for 2009:**

**Application is required for participation in the CareFlite program.**

**If you applied in 2008, you are still covered.**

***Your coverage costs you nothing, but you must complete an application form.***

For new applicants, application form can be found in the January 2009 issue of the Cross Roads Times, page 6, or can be obtained at the Town Hall.

- Complete it.
- Turn it in to Town Hall immediately.

***The main applicant will receive a new ID card.***

## Business Profile...by Ross Schraeder

Not long after US Highway 380 was widened in 2004 through Cross Roads, Jim and Pam Bruner realized that they had an exceptional opportunity to relocate their real estate business to a prime location. It was just a matter of when and where. In 2007 they purchased a residence on an acre lot on the north side of 380, which provided the answer. It was the ideal location for their business.

After converting the property to commercial zoning and a year of modifications to the building, adding concrete drives and parking facilities, they opened their new business, **Re/Max First Reality III**, in April 2007. The conversion allowed not only for an office for their real estate business, but room for several other offices.

Pam, a decorating specialist, selected Old Texas Country for the motif of the interior in support of the Town of Cross Roads' official theme. You need to visit the facility to see and appreciate what Pam has done.

The growing business demanded that Jim and Pam add a young member to their staff to meet the needs of their customers. They hired Sara Clarkson in 2007 to expand their real estate services and provide additional Internet skills. Then in 2008, Judy Andes decided to join the business with her 22 years of real estate experience in Illinois and Texas. This rounded out the staff to provide superior management, professional real estate experience, and growth. Customers now have an exceptional answer to their real estate needs.

In addition to Jim and Pam's Re/Max First Reality III, their tenants include:

- **The Barron Law Firm** offering a full range of Life Care Planning services for caregivers and families who need long term care assistance. Richard M. Barron, Attorney at Law, is here in Cross Roads to help the elderly when they have problems that need correct solutions.
- The **Kyle W. Lyons Insurance Agency** provides help with all of your insurance needs, whether it is Auto, Home, Life or Business. Kyle can help you with your 401K rollover, IRA's, and College funds. Kathy Browning is the office manager. Drop by to see how they can help you get the most for your money.
- Tye Belger, C. J. Lawlis and Sheri Smith are delighted to announce the opening of **Artists Edge Hair Design Studio**. This team offers a total of 60 plus years of experience in the hair industry. All artists are dedicated to continuing education in all phases of color, cuts and hair trends.

Pam says that they only have one office left. If you are interested, give her a call at 940-365-6300.

Cross Roads needs more businesses like the one developed by the Bruners.



ReMax Team



8000 Highway 380

**A p p r e c i a t i o n D i n e r 2 0 0 2**



## Square Foot Gardening ...by Bob Miller

Would you like to garden in only 20 percent of the space typically used for your garden? You can have a garden with essentially no weeds and little work after your garden is established. This intelligent way to garden is the product of Mel Bartholomew, the author and developer of SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, Grow More in Less Space.

I have been gardening for twenty plus years with the trials and tribulations of the home gardener- planting in single rows, working, weeding, tilling, fertilizing and spraying to make a crop with (more often than not) mediocre results. Mel Bartholomew, a retired engineer compared the problems of home gardening to a farmer with a large commercial effort using single rows with wasted space between the rows. He determined that a better, more efficient garden could be grown in only 20 percent of the space of a more traditional single row garden.

Approximately 10 years ago I began using raised bed gardening with better results, because of intensive planting and an easier to tend garden. Mr. Bartholomew, however, has improved the elevated raised bed gardening by adapting his Square Foot method. Raised beds provide an opportunity to amend the planting medium to provide the optimum

soil and prevent weeds in the raised beds. The real innovations are the use of a grid system to mark the bed into one-foot squares, which gives order to a normally chaotic endeavor of rows and wasted space between plants.

Once you have built your bed(s), laid your soil mixture and made your grid system, the hard work is over for years. There is no tilling, digging, weeding or fertilizing. You just plant, water and harvest vegetables that supermarkets wish they could sell. Each year the cost of your investment is returned.

This article would not be complete without telling the readers how to obtain this wonderful book and methodology. The book is All New SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, Grow More in Less Space, by Mel Bartholomew. Published by Cool Springs Press, [www.squarefootgardening.com](http://www.squarefootgardening.com).

One other person of note is Dennis Smith of Dennis' Farm Store, 320 Bell Pl., Denton, Texas. He ordered vermiculite and peat moss in the size and quantities I required when the big box stores and nurseries weren't interested.



Bob in his garden area



Darrell and Jan in their garden

### More Square Foot Gardening Information...by Darrell Herbst

Jan and I are pretty new at vegetable gardening. Once we moved to Oak Shores in Cross Roads, we knew that we wanted to have a vegetable garden. The only logical place for the garden had mostly fill dirt from the house construction. While we were struggling with how to amend the soil to make it more fertile, we came upon Mel Bartholomew's book, All New Square Foot Gardening, which uses raised beds. This was the answer for us.

Square Foot Gardening advocates using raised beds with a very fertile soil mixture consisting of equal parts by volume of blended compost, peat moss, and coarse vermiculite. This mixture is fertile, holds water well, but still has good drainage, and is weed free. In the interest of time and expense, we opted to go with Dyno Dirt Light from Denton. Our particular batch of Dyno Dirt turned out to be anything but weed free, but otherwise seems to be working out well.

*Continued on page 7*

## More Square Foot Gardening (continued)

This year is pretty much an experiment for us. We have planted a wide variety of vegetables to see what will do well in our particular environment. In early March we set out lettuce, cabbage, brussel sprouts, broccoli, swiss chard, collard greens, cauliflower, strawberry, onion, sage and cilantro plants. In late March we planted tomato, and pepper plants and planted seeds for watermelon, cantaloupe, zucchini, pumpkin, cucumbers, okra, bush beans, and radishes.

As you can see from the picture, everything is coming along nicely. It is too early to see what kind of a crop we will get, although we have harvested some broccoli and lettuce so far. By the way, the chicken wire cages are the square foot gardener's approach for dealing with the pesky rabbits and other critters.

## KATHERINE'S CORNER...by Katherine Ritchie

### CareFlight

I am proud to inform you that the Town Council's decision to contract with CareFlight to service our community has benefited a family member of one of Cross Roads' founding fathers. The specialized ambulance transport was covered by the family's CareFlight membership. It has also been reported that 3 other Cross Roads families have directly benefited by their CareFlight membership paid for by the Town of Cross Roads. Remember to complete a CareFlight membership form and return it to Town Hall, if you have not already done so.

### Odds and Ends

#### TRASH & RECYCLE

**Please allow 2 feet between your trash and recycle containers to allow the collection trucks to maneuver.** Also please remove your trash and recycle containers from the front of your property after IESI has been by to pick up. It is becoming unsightly and a danger to drive on some of the town roads after the wind has moved or turned over your receptacles.

#### DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS SCAM

Beware of a driveway paving fraud starting up in the Denton County area. Unlicensed paving contractors are going door-to-door offering deals to pave your driveways with left over materials at a reduced rate and then billing for more than agreed to, or not completing the work as described. Please call Town Hall if anyone comes to your door selling anything and does not present a Town of Cross Roads approved permit.

### Code Enforcement Officer

By now, you should have received a letter from Mayor Kitchens regarding the town contracting the services of a Code Enforcement Officer. He will help the town resolve issues pertaining to property maintenance, zoning, and non-permitted construction, through a combination of education, partnership efforts, and code enforcement. I would like to introduce you to Officer Michael Carroll. Officer Carroll is a retired Police Captain and currently works for another community managing their code enforcement. Cross Roads' first objective is always to achieve voluntary compliance, but if the violator is a repeat offender or is unwilling to bring the property into compliance, then the Town will set into motion the process of issuing a ticket to correct the violation.



Officer Mike Carroll

## Health and Safety

- The Aubrey Fire Department has added a new 2008 **750 gallon pumper-truck** at the District Highway 380 Navo Fire Station.
- The fire ban has been lifted for the present, but it is still wise to **call the Denton County Fire Marshall's office** at 940-349-2840 for the current conditions.
- The Aubrey Area Ambulance Service offers **CPR classes** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month starting in May. Please call Glen at 940-365-9785 for details.

## Aubrey Area Library

### Location

226 Countryside Dr  
Aubrey, TX 76227

### Contact

Phone: (940) 365-9162  
Fax: 940-365-9411

### Hours

Tuesday -Thursday 10:00am - 7:00pm  
Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

### Story Time

Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:15am

### Library Events

#### Tuesdays

Toddler Time 10:15 - 11:45  
Craft Club 1:00 - 3:30

#### Wednesdays

Story Time 11:15 - 12:00  
Home School Club 1:30 - 3:30

#### Thursdays

Senior Citizens' Activities 10:00 - 12:00

### Crime Watch

Last Tuesday of the month

### Aubrey Book Club

Last Wednesday of the month

### The Library holds two book sales per year:

- \* **March Madness is held in March.**
- \* **Dog Days of Summer is held in August.**

### Book donations

Book donations are only accepted in the months of January, February, June and July.  
All donations benefit the Aubrey Area Library.

The staff will determine whether materials are added to the collection or placed in the following book sale.

Any material that meets the following criteria will be accepted by the library as a donation:

\* Materials must be in very good condition, clean and like new.

- \* Non fiction books must be no older than 3years, except books that are still current AND meet the above criteria.
  - \* DVD, VHS and AUDIO books and recordings should have no scratches, pits or other damage that affects play quality.
  - \* No copies made of TV programming's, DVDs, CDs or VHS as this is an infringement of copyright law and therefore illegal.
  - \* NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS or TEXTBOOKS are accepted.
- Tax receipts are available on request.

**The Summer Reading Program will begin June 9. Check out Aubrey's website (under city services) for more information. <http://www.aubreytx.net>**

# Are you cleaning up your yard?

IESI will pick up the debris if it is cut into small pieces and placed inside your trash container.

Or do you need to dispose of larger tree limbs, leaves, and other recyclable tree debris? Contact the Denton Landfill on Mayhill Road in Denton for information concerning rates, hours, etc.,

or you may check out their website.

Denton Landfill 349-8041

[www.cityofdenton.com/utswlandfill.cfm](http://www.cityofdenton.com/utswlandfill.cfm)

## Crime Watch

The Aubrey Area Crime Watch is extending its programs to the Cross Roads area.

If you have any ideas for promoting the Aubrey Area Crime Watch in Cross Roads, your input will be appreciated.

Please contact  
Town Hall for more information, or email  
Christine Gossett,  
Subject: CR Crime Watch  
Ask to be placed on her email list for  
follow-up.  
[christinegossett@msn.com](mailto:christinegossett@msn.com)



## Support AISD

### AUBREY TRADE DAZE!

Community Rummage Sale



Proceeds benefit  
**Aubrey Chaparral Bands**



Saturday, May 2nd  
(Rain date: May 8th)  
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Aubrey High School Parking Lot

Booth space \$20.00

Office April 2nd - 525 891  
Booth space is 2 parking spaces - 10' x 10'

Call Lynda Ver Hoef - 940-200-5959

or email [aubreybandboosters@gmail.com](mailto:aubreybandboosters@gmail.com)  
to reserve your booth space.



**Ryan High School**  
**"Music in the Parks" Festival**  
**RHS Auditorium and Band Hall**  
**Saturday, May 9, 2009**  
**7:00 AM- 3:00 PM**

Check out the website  
for DISD to see the  
boundaries for  
elementary  
middle  
and  
high schools  
for  
2009-2010  
[www.dentonisd.org](http://www.dentonisd.org)

Check out Cross Roads

Check out Cross Roads  
Website

[www.crossroadstx.gov](http://www.crossroadstx.gov)



Big Machine  
Big Machine  
to the  
RESCUE!

Thanks

Thanks to all the folks who helped clean up our Town on March 28.



## **Town of Cross Roads, TX**

*Harv Kitchens, Mayor*  
*Ross Schraeder, Mayor Pro Tem*  
*Michelle Meek, Council Member*  
*Dan Prins, Council Member*  
*Tony Russo, Council Member*  
*Virden Seybold, Council Member*  
*Katherine Ritchie, Town*  
*Administrator*  
*Judy Moudy, Admin. Assist.*  
*Jeanie Burch, Editor*

**Town of Cross Roads**  
**1401 FM 424**  
**Cross Roads, TX 76227**

PHONE: 940-365-9693  
FAX: 940-665-6898

## **Dates to Remember**

- Town Council Meetings are the second Monday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Town Council workshops meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 5:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Planning and Zoning Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- Road Repair Committee meets at 7:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to the Council Meeting.
- All meetings are posted on the Town Hall bulletin board 72 hours prior to the meeting.



***Congratulations***  
***Graduates***

Town of Cross Roads  
1401 FM 424  
Cross Roads, TX 76227

**PRST STD**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Aubrey, TX**  
**Permit No. 28**